

ESTABLISHED 1845.

TAZEWELL, VIRGINIA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1915.

\$1.50 PER YEAR.

TAZEWELL LADY MEETS
TRAGIC DEATH BY FIREMrs. A. J. Copenhaver Suffocated
in Burning Home of D. B.
Baldwin in Bluefield Wed-
nesday Morning.

Mrs. Eliza Copenhaver, 78 years old, widow of the late A. J. Copenhaver, and one of Tazewell's most prominent and best known women, lost her life in a fire which occurred at the home of her sister, Mrs. D. B. Baldwin, in Bluefield, early on Wednesday morning.

It was the most distressing occurrence known in the history of this county or community, and to say that the entire community was shocked and distressed only feebly expresses the state of feeling. The remains were brought here on yesterday and interred beside those of

her husband in Maple Shade Cemetery.

The particulars of this sad occurrence are about as follows:

Mrs. Copenhaver went to Bluefield on Tuesday afternoon to visit her sister, Mrs. D. B. Baldwin. On Wednesday morning about 6 o'clock, fire broke out in the basement of the house, originating in some manner from the furnace. The family were aroused and came down stairs and made their way out through the hall. Mrs. Copenhaver was with the rest of the family, in her night clothes.

In the confusion and darkness she seems to have lost her way, missed the outer door and when found was lying near a pantry door suffocated and nearly dead. She was taken to the sanitarium where she died in a short time. Parts of her body were blistered by the heat.

Her relatives here were communicated with at once the message saying that she had been seriously injured in the fire and was expected to die. Her son, Dr. R. P. Copenhaver, rushed to Bluefield at once, and phoned the sad intelligence that his mother was dead, her death occurring at the sanitarium about 9 o'clock.

The funeral took place from the Methodist church on yesterday at 2 p. m.

Deceased was the widow of the late A. J. Copenhaver, whose death occurred several years ago. She is survived by a number of relatives, in Tazewell and elsewhere. She was a sister to Mr. John Barnes, of this town; Mr. Clinton Barnes, of the Cove and Mrs. D. B. Baldwin, of Bluefield.

Her surviving children are: Dr. R. P. Copenhaver, of Tazewell; Dr. Luther Copenhaver, of Johnson City, Tenn.; dentists; Henry, of Tazewell, and John, a member of the Baldwin Detective Agency, with headquarters in Roanoke.

Mrs. Copenhaver was a Miss Barnes before marriage, daughter of the late William Barnes. Her mother was a Miss Ward. And hence she was related to a large number of the principal, well known families of this community, by whom she is deeply mourned, and will be sadly missed. Her tragic death, after the vicissitudes and possibilities of a long life, will be memorable in the history of her family, and of the county in which she lived.

The following is from the Telegraph of yesterday:

"Mrs. A. J. Copenhaver, of Tazewell, was fatally burned by a fire which almost destroyed the beautiful home of Capt. D. B. Baldwin, 124 Summers street, yesterday morning. It had been thought that the home had been cleared of its occupants and the firemen were fighting the flames, which were leaping wildly through the lower hallways and rooms on the north side of the house, when Fire Chief, R. O. Carter, upon entering a door at the back side of the home, found the body of Mrs. Copenhaver lying at the rear of the reception hall, near the entrance of a door leading to one of the living rooms. Life was almost extinct when Chief Carter made the discovery. With the assistance of other members of the department, Mrs. Copenhaver was taken from the burning building and hurried to the Bluefield Sanitarium, on the fire truck, but her condition was so critical that death resulted a few minutes after reaching the hospital.

"The fire broke out about 6:30, and from all indications seemed to have started in the furnace room. A negro boy, who had been employed about the home, had been in the furnace room to stir up the fire a short time before the flames were discovered. He had gone from the furnace room and was sitting in the room when the alarm of fire was given.

"There were nine people in the house, including the negro boy, who is about the age of thirteen years—Captain and Mrs. D. B. Baldwin, Miss Lyde Baldwin, Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Dwy and two children and mother, Mrs. Lucy G. Dwy, and Mrs. Copenhaver. At the hour of the fire only one or two of the family had awakened for the day. The fire spread rapidly and Mr. and Mrs. Dwy and children were forced to escape through the windows on the south side of the building. Mr. Dwy, who jumped out of one of the windows, was slightly injured. Ex-Fire Chief, Dave Dunn, who had left his place of business on Raleigh street when the alarm was given, was among the first to arrive. He assisted Mrs. Dwy and the children to escape from the building. They were taken out of the window of their bedroom onto the roof and then lowered to the ground, while others made their escape in night clothing, and anything they were able to gather up.

"In the tragic death of Mrs. Copenhaver, the news of which spread rapidly throughout Southwest Virginia, causing a great shock to her numerous friends and acquaintances, Tazewell county suffers the loss of one of its most esteemed ladies. Mrs. Copenhaver had come to Bluefield on Tuesday to remain with her sister,



Mrs. Baldwin, until today, when her son, John Copenhaver, of Roanoke, was to come to Bluefield and accompany her to Roanoke where she had planned to spend a part of the winter visiting at the time of her death. She was a consistent member of the Methodist church. Mrs. Copenhaver was aged seventy-seven years. Her sons arrived yesterday and will accompany the remains to Tazewell this morning on train No. 5 where the funeral service will take place."

Mobilizing a Good Army.
(Bluefield Telegraph.)

The big business revival at Gary, which requires the services of five hundred additional men, and which indicates that a prosperous season is ahead of us in the coal business, is being discussed by business and coal men who generally regard it as a most gratifying indication. Only one note of a doleful key has been heard, and that is that the United States people are trying to recruit five hundred men in this locality. It is said that nearly all of the mines are short of men, and to draw the extra men required at Gary from the present forces would cripple them and the output of the field as a whole would not be increased. This may be true, and it is hoped that enough men can be had from other sections to take the places of those who may leave other collieries to go to Gary. However, the fact that five hundred men are needed at any one point in the field is a great advertisement to the section and will draw men here. Last month the output was an increase over the preceding months and when the big force at Gary gets into action there will be something worth while to talk about in the coal shipping line.

The Types Got All Mixed Up.

An account of a wedding and sale have been reported about the same time, the following appeared in a perfectly dignified publication. Evidently something happened after the account were in type:

"William Smith, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Smith and Miss Lucy Anderson were disposed of at public auction at my farm one mile east in the presence of seventy-five guests, including two mules and 12 head of cattle. Rev. Jones tied the nuptial knot for the parties, averaging 1200 pounds on the hoof. The beautiful hom. of the bride was decorated with one sulky rake, one feed grinder and two sets of work harness nearly new and just before the ceremony was performed Meendelsohn's wedding march was rendered by one milch cow, five years old, one Jersey cow and one sheep, who carrying a bunch of bride's roses in her hand was very beautiful. She wore a light spring wagon, two crates of apples, three crates of potatoes, three racks of hay and one grindstone trimmed with about one hundred bushels of spuds. The bridal couple left yesterday for an extended trip. Terms cash.—Ex.

THE HEAVIEST HOG.

So far as heard from the heaviest hog of the season was butchered on the farm of Mrs. Burgess, near Graham. The porker tipped the scales at 608 pounds. Geo. W. Lewis butchered three which estimated would total at 1200 pounds. So far Mrs. Burgess has the ribbon.

When the Baby's Sick.

Say! Y' know our baby?
Well! He's sick t'-day,
An' yisterday the doctor
Jes' couldn't stay away.
He come three times a-runnin',
An' runnin' good and quick,
For pa wont stand for foolin',
An' tryin' the baby's sick.

Ma, she's jes' a-jumpin',
Fixin' up the bed,
An' tellin' all the neighbors
What the doctor said;
Pa can't read his paper,
Ner go to work ner joke,
Jes' waitin' on the baby,
An' tryin' not to choke.

Sis, she does the cooking.
An' hein' awful nice,
An' she's been a-cryin',
Fer I seen her twice!
"Looks like I been cryin'?"
Say! Y're not s' slick!
You ain't got no baby,
An' our baby's sick!

—Christian Herald.

Pochontas Policeman Dies Suddenly.

Pochontas, Dec. 21.—Sam E. Maccom, who, until recently served on the police force of the town of Pochontas, passed away Monday morning about 6 o'clock, at his home here. Several months ago his health began to fail, and he retired from active service on the force. For a time his condition was thought to be serious, but he seemed to rally, and of late his friends were hopeful of his ultimate recovery. He had been spending sometime in the Stump-Alexander hospital, but was taken from that place to his home a few days ago. Yesterday morning his wife arranged his chair for him, and went down stairs to prepare breakfast, with the expectation of returning shortly to see how he was getting on. A boarder came down the steps and reported that he was sleeping, which aroused the suspicions of the wife, and an investigation disclosed that he had died very suddenly of heart failure. He was married about twenty-five years ago to Miss Matilda Jones, who survives. He leaves, besides the widow, four children, Edward and Harry and Misses Margie and Arlie. For some time past he had been making preparations for the future, and, as he stated it, had placed himself in the Lord's hands. He united with the Baptist church during the summer and Rev. W. R. Rickman, pastor of that church, conducted the funeral services today at the home at 10 o'clock. The remains were taken to Bluestone Junction yesterday for interment, the funeral party getting off at Bailey station, and going over from there. The deceased was born in Tazewell county. His mother preceded him to the grave about two years ago.

NOTES OF POUNDING MILL.

Pounding Mill, December 22.—A pretty girl baby arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Altizer today. Mother and child doing well.
Born on yesterday, a girl to Mr. and Mrs. Beverly Evans. The stork is keeping our Doctor Zimmerman busy.
Mrs. Rose Ward, who teaches in a High School in Kentucky, is visiting her parents, Rev. and Mrs. G. R. Thomas. She also has a number of pupils in music and art. She spent

W. Va., called on Bear Wallow friends Sunday.

Mr. Larry Evans, a popular young man of this vicinity, visited his uncle, Mr. R. A. Ratcliff, at North Tazewell Saturday.

The Crockett's Cove school will give a Christmas entertainment on Friday, the exercises beginning at 10 a. m.
Mr. L. T. McGuire, a popular young man of North Tazewell, bought two wagon loads of turkeys in Crockett's Cove Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mr. Daley Mays, a confederate veteran, was the guest of Mr. J. P. Payne on Wednesday and Thursday. Mr. Payne was one of the gallant Virginia cadets who participated in the famous battle of New Market, in the civil war. Miss Annie Lee, a daughter of Gen. Fitzhugh Lee went to Maryland as a spy. She was captured, and Mr. Mays was one of the six confederate scouts who rescued Miss Lee. She was being held a prisoner in a school house, and Mr. Mays with the five others rescued her from the school house, while the Yankee soldiers were sleeping. The men approached the school house and knocked sentinel sprawling, and Miss Lee ran from the house with her rescuers, and escaped. They made their way to the Potomac river, being fired on several times by the Northern soldiers. The confederates in the party were: Captain David Allison, W. D. Mays, Samuel Wheeler, James Allison, and David Sayers and William Wheeler.

The Walker Construction Company is building a camp at Squire, W. Va. This firm is building thirty-four miles of road in Big Creek district of McDowell county.

TELEPHONE OFFICE MODERN IN EVERY WAY.

General manager Hawley, of the Bluefield office of the Bluefield Telephone Company, was in town the first of the week assisting Sam Larimer, local manager, install a new switchboard in the office here. The board is much larger than any yet in use here, being capable of holding 250 telephone "drops." This board will take care of the business in these parts for a long time to come is the belief of the telephone people.

The new board is really a double board, one side taking care of all the local work, consisting now of about 125 calls or drops. The other side takes all the long distance and toll lines in the county, numbering now something 30 or 40 calls, or lines. In the forenoon two operators are necessary to take care of the business, one on the local side, the other on the toll side of the board. The business here is growing all the time, and the company is leaving nothing undone to facilitate the transmission of messages, and to serve their patrons. Perhaps there are few small exchanges better equipped than the one in this town.

An interesting little instrument installed in the central office here is a Calculagraph, a nice little machine operated by a sort of clock arrangement, which records distinctly and plainly the length of time the long distance line is being used.

When a customer begins to talk over the toll line the little machine is set in motion, and at the close of the conversation shows in plain characters the length of time the line was used. This slip, with the customer's name, is passed to the book-keeper, and charged up. If the customer kicks when the bill is presented, and he usually does, the machine record is drawn on him, and he is politely asked to kick (or cuss) the machine. It is a time saver, and saves trouble, too.

The News man found "Miss Sallie," whom everybody knows, handling the wires or plugs, more properly speaking, of the new switchboard, and she was kept busy—as busy as a bee—too busy to talk to the reporter very much. She says that the operators get much criticism which they do not deserve, just as newspaper men, and all others who serve the public. "We do our best," she said, "but if we chance to make a mistake, or fail to answer a call immediately, however busy we may be, there is a fuss and a complaint. We are doing our best to fulfill our duty." It would be a difficult thing to do, to persuade the public that "Miss Sallie" McClintock, who has been at the board for a long time, is remiss or careless.

General Foreman Sam Larimer, with a force of men, is now constructing two new lines, one in Witten's Valley, and a new line to Richlands.

Burgess-Gillenwaters.

Mr. Estel Burgess and Miss Callie Gillenwaters were married on Wednesday at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Gillenwaters at North Tazewell, Rev. J. H. Bowling officiating.

Wiles-Johnson.

Mr. Roby Wiles and Miss Cleo Johnson, daughter of Thomas Johnson, were married on December 14th at the home of the bride in this county, by Rev. J. H. Bowling.

MEETING IS CALLED TO
DISCUSS NEW ROADS

Connecting Link Suggested
With Proposed Highway Now
Being Built in McDowell
County.

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors D. B. Daniels, of Horsopen, called at this office Wednesday to say that it is desired that a road meeting be held on the first Monday in January, at which meeting road matters of much interest and importance will be discussed. Among the questions to be considered is the issuing of more bonds in Jeffersonville district to be used to connect up the roads in the northern part of the district with new roads that are to be built in McDowell county, West Virginia. An

(Continued on local page.)

